

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2009

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write today with great concern over your recent executive order, "Review and Disposition of Individuals Detained at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base and Closure of Detention Facilities," January 22, 2009.

This executive order mandates that "The detention facilities at Guantanamo for individuals covered by this order shall be closed as soon as practicable, and no later than 1 year from the date of this order. If any individuals covered by this order remain in detention at Guantanamo at the time of closure of those detention facilities, they shall be returned to their home country, released, transferred to a third country, or transferred to another United States detention facility in a manner consistent with law and the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States." Executive Order 13492, § 3.

It is our collective opinion that no detainee from the Guantanamo Bay detention facility should, under any circumstances, be released or transferred into the State of Texas. The United States has kept, and continues to keep, detainees in Guantanamo Bay, and it has compelling reasons and legal justifications for doing so. These enemy combatants are kept at Guantanamo – under American control but outside the United States – to ensure that constitutional rights do not attach for them. Supreme Court precedents indicate that courts can bestow certain constitutional rights on individuals simply by virtue of their being on U.S. soil, potentially affording these detainees additional rights under U.S. immigration statutes.

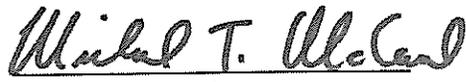
Granting such rights to these dangerous enemy combatants could potentially lead to their release into the towns and cities of Texas. We refuse to accept that outcome, which would put innocent Texans in great danger, and we will do everything we can to prevent it from happening.

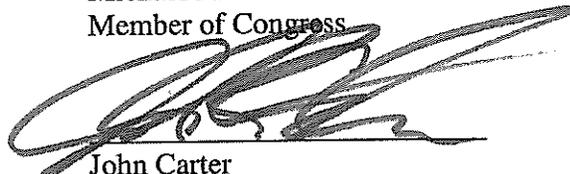
Indeed, any such detention facility in the continental United States would instantly become a target for terrorists, who would likely seek to free the terrorist detainees, destroy the facility, or both. We will do everything in our power to shield the good people of Texas from such threats.

Sincerely,

  
John Cornyn  
U.S. Senator

  
Joe Barton  
Member of Congress

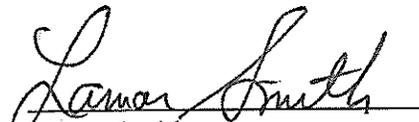
  
Michael McCaul  
Member of Congress

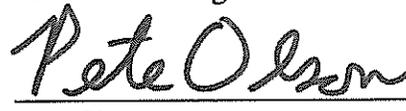
  
John Carter  
Member of Congress

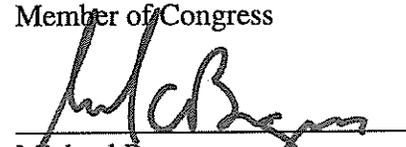
  
Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Conaway  
Member of Congress

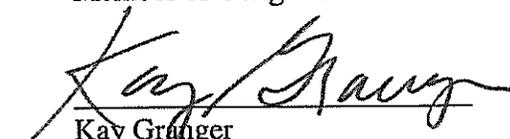
  
Ted Poe  
Member of Congress

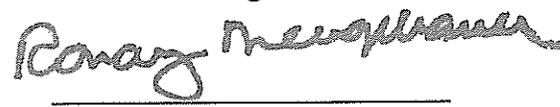
  
Lamar Smith  
Member of Congress

  
Pete Olson  
Member of Congress

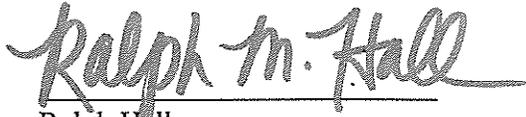
  
Michael Burgess  
Member of Congress

  
Kenny Marchant  
Member of Congress

  
Kay Granger  
Member of Congress

  
Randy Neugebauer  
Member of Congress

  
Sam Johnson  
Member of Congress



Ralph Hall  
Member of Congress



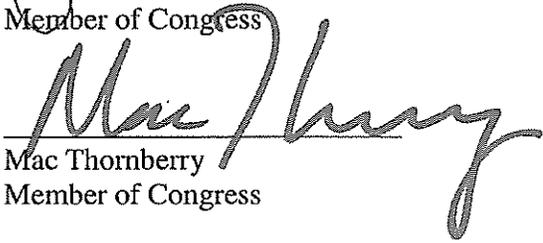
Kevin Brady  
Member of Congress



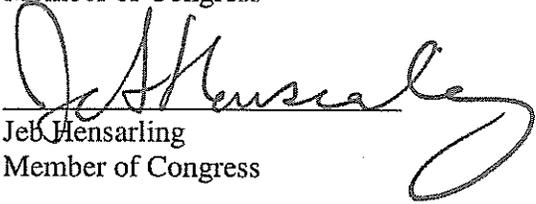
John Culberson  
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



Mac Thornberry  
Member of Congress



Jeb Hensarling  
Member of Congress